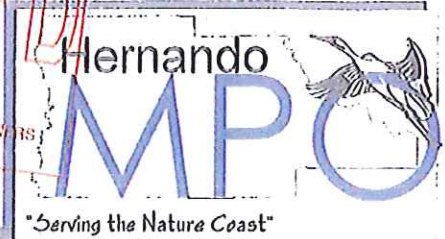


**Hernando County
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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FILED
JAN 07 2013



December 21, 2012

Noranne Downs, District Five Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
719 South Woodland Boulevard
DeLand, FL 32720

Brian Blanchard, P.E., Interim District Seven Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 57
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: *S.R. 50 Corridor Between I-75 and Florida's Turnpike*

Dear Secretary Downs and Secretary Blanchard:

On behalf of the Hernando County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), I want to express our desire to add the section of S.R. 50 between I-75 and the Turnpike to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). By adding this portion of the state highway network to the SIS, Hernando, Sumter and Lake Counties will be better positioned to expand the existing two-lane road into a multi-lane facility, thereby attracting major employers to the area.

We believe that S.R. 50 is a pivotal corridor between the west coast and Orlando, and is crucial to the overall transportation network and hurricane evacuation in the State of Florida. Adding this facility to the SIS will also serve to enhance regional goods movement and economic growth in the area. With the continued growth that Florida will experience in the future, the capacity of this corridor will need to be improved.

Hernando County has greatly benefitted from a positive working relationship with the Florida Department of Transportation, particularly District Seven (7). We look forward to an equally beneficial partnership with District Five (5) relative to the status and condition of this corridor. Again, adding this section of S.R. 50 to the SIS will benefit the State and the entire region in terms of economic growth, goods movement and safety. Thank you for your support and attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

Wayne Dukes
MPO Vice-Chairman

Copy To:

Comms 5

Co Atty _____

Co Fin _____

Other _____

Pub Wks Div _____

Bldg & Dev Div _____

Admin Div _____

Com Svcs Div _____

cc: Members, Hernando County MPO Board
Ronald F. Pianta, AICP, Hernando Land Services/MPO Executive Director
Debbie Hunt, FDOT District Seven Transportation Development Director
Don Burgess, Commissioner, Lake-Sumter MPO Chairman
Daisy W. Lynum, Commissioner, MetroPlan Orlando Chairman
T.J. Fish, AICP, Lake-Sumter MPO Executive Director
Harold W. Barley, MetroPlan Orlando Executive Director